

CT Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 10, 2023

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Tyler Anderson, Jeanette Baker (United Way CT), Lisa Barry (UConn Health), Scott Barton (SPRC), Rebekah Behan (CHDI), Torry Bernard, Dana Bossio (CEC), Stephanie Bozak (DCF), Audrey Butler (Volunteer RSAB Region 4 & Amplify), Kayla Champagne (Western CT Coalition), Heather Clinger (Wheeler), Carrigan Costello (Wolcott CASA), Ann Irr Dagle (Brian Dagle Foundation), Alice DeMeo (DCF), Andrea Duarte (DMHAS), Brittany Dube (Stamford Dept Health & Human Services), Erika Echevarria (DMHAS), Jennifer Esposito (Judicial Branch), Melanie Flaherty, Joshua Freeman (Governor’s Prevention Partnership), Taylor Gainey (APW), Maris Giannela-Porco (Jordan Porco Foundation), Darian Graells (McCall Ctr for Behavioral Health), Grace Grinnell (NAMI Farmington Valley), Rob Harrison (Washington County Zero Suicide), Emma Hollis, Eric Hudson (CT Judicial Branch/CSSD), Aaron Jackson (Join Rise Be), Angela Jimenez (DPH), Robert Kanehl (CT Poison Control), Chelsea Kapitancek (McCall Ctr for Behavioral Health), Angelina Karwowski (Bristol-Burlington Health District), Lynn Kelley (Carelon), Pamela Lang (CSSD), Michelle Leibovitz (Rich Wright Productions), Valerie Lepoutre (NAMI CT), Jodi Lott (Gaggle) Cathy Ludlum (Second Thoughts CT), Mollie Machado (DMHAS), Mike Makowski (DPH), Amanda Mihaly (UConn SSW/DMHAS), Mike Moravecek (CT DOC), Cornelia Morris, Erica Moura, Caitlyn Ogilvie (Child & Family Agency of SE CT), Lucy Orellano (OCA), Michael Pepe (Windsor Health Dept), Michelle Peters (AFSP-CT), Erica Previti (DPH), Paulette Schwartz (Hartford Healthcare), Maria Sicley-Rogers (IOL), Cathy Sisco (Wheeler), Danielle Stewart (Washington County Zero Suicide), Jennifer Sussman (UConn Health), Alyeska Tilly (DMHAS), Jennifer Tirado (Advocacy Unlimited), Abby Wood (Western CT Coalition), LoriBeth Williams-Young (DSS), Susan Yurasevecz (DPH), and Carleen Zambetti (DMHAS).

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION /RESPONSIBLE
I. Welcome and Introductions	Stephanie Bozak, Andrea Duarte and Ann Irr Dagle welcomed attendees.	
Review of Minutes	July minutes approved	
<p><i>Bridging You to Safety: A First Evaluation of Suicide Prevention Signage on Bridges in Connecticut</i></p> <p>Paulette Schwartz, LCSW MPH Student Internship with Andrea Duarte, DMHAS paulette.schwartz@hhchealth.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The work of the internship supported Connecticut’s Suicide Prevention Plan 2025 Objective 4.3: Develop and implement new technologies and techniques to reduce access to lethal means specific to suicide prevention signage on bridges and highways. - Paulette partnered with United Way on list of sign locations and contact persons; updated the lists; conducted key informant interviews; identified signs in disrepair; and identified possible new locations for signage <p>To view the presentation, visit: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Content/www/files/PDFs/Poster_Presentation_Internship_CTSAB_FINAL_PDF.pdf</p>	

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III. Reports	<p><u>Department of Children and Families Urgent Crisis Centers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Behavioral-Health-Partnership/Home/Urgent-Crisis-Centers-for-Children - Caitlyn Ogilvie, Director of Urgent Crisis Center, Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut, presented on behalf of the Urgent Crisis Centers - Four centers throughout the state: The Village for Families and Children in Hartford; Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven; The Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut in New London; and Wellmore Behavioral Health in Waterbury. - Serving youth 18 and under; not an Emergency Room overflow but in place of the Emergency Room for youth who are medically stable - Multi-disciplinary team including RNs for medical triage, clinicians for assessment and intervention, discharge planners, and peer specialists for the family - Goal is 365, 24/7 - Wraparound service for youth and their family to connect them to services - Follow-up care - Caregiver needs to be present at all times - Assessments are typically four hours in a child-friendly setting - Youth must be safe enough to be in a vehicle with their caregiver(s) - Ambulances cannot go to the Urgent Crisis Centers - Urgent Crisis Centers are not detox facilities - Partner with Mobile Crisis providers and local healthcare institutions <p><u>Suicide-related Grant Initiatives</u></p> <p><u>Mashantucky Tribal/Good Medicine Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott Barton is now with SPRC - New contact person to be determined <p><u>Regional Suicide Advisory Boards</u></p> <p>https://www.preventsuicidect.org/about-us/regional-sab-business/</p> <p><u>Region 1/Southwestern</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing twice a month Narcan and QPR trainings open to public - Trainings for EMS and first responders - 8/2/2023 YMHA training - Planning for AFSP walk - Next meeting: September 21 	

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	<p>Region 2/South Central</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offering QPR and Mental Health First Aid trainings - Tabling event: 8/6/2023 Gospel Fest in New Haven - Virtual postvention in September; in person for town of Clinton in October - New Haven Office of Mental Health Initiatives created a suicide prevention resource guide <p>Region 3/Eastern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tabled at Senior Expo at Dodd Stadium - Tabled at events on July 19 and 20 - Gizmo read alongs - Next meeting: September 5 <p>Region 4/North Central</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No update <p>Region 5 /Western</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many QPR and Narcan training requests - QPR training for RAs at Western Connecticut State University - Talk Saves Lives at Naugatuck Valley Danbury campus - Creating infographics with information from the priority needs assessment - September meeting date will be changed <p><u>Foundations</u></p> <p>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) https://afsp.org/chapter/connecticut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gizmo’s Pawesome Retirement Party on September 9 at Northwest Park in Manchester - Five Out of Darkness walks beginning in September; info on the website. - Talk Saves Lives has different modules - Survivor events being planned for November - Position available in New York City - To volunteer for AFSP CT, contact Michelle Peters at mpeters@afsp.org <p>Brian Dagle Foundation https://brianshealinghearts.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to host various support groups; information on website - The ribbon cutting for The Cottage at Brian’s Healing Hearts will be in September - Golf tournament October 5, 2023 - Planning for 10th Jingle Bell 5K in December <p>Jordan Porco Foundation https://www.rememberingjordan.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 125 Fresh Check Days scheduled 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scooper Sunday on July 23 at the Hartford Yard Goats was successful - Eversource Hartford Marathon October 14 <p>My Friend Abby https://www.myfriendabby.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September 10 candlelight vigil in Trumbull, 6:30pm - Two Roads Brewery annual fundraiser October 20 <p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Armed Forces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTNG Suicide Prevention Awareness Run September 10, 8:00am, Niantic and East Granby. Anyone who would like to take and for more information contact Kasey.Timberlake@us.af.mil <p>Attempt Survivors/Lived Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested by several organizations to present “Why I Didn’t Say Anything”: CT School-based Health Center Conference; CTSAB November meeting; CIT module for first responder training monthly - Tabling events in the fall <p>Data to Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed results of the survey at the June meeting - September meeting will focus on suicide and related data with special populations - Next meeting: September 13, 9:30am <p>Education & Advocacy Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the July meeting discussed agenda for the year - Revisiting goals of the committee - To join, contact Alyeska.Tilly@ct.gov - Next Meeting: August 24, 1:00pm <p>Intervention-Postvention Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal is to create a loss team of volunteers - Postvention resource materials for website updated <p>Lethal Means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open spot for co-chair - Two subgroups: older adults and mental health promotion and firearms educator materials <p>Zero Suicide Learning Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived Experience committee presented at the July meeting - September 27, 9:00am, Incorporating Zero Suicide into Quality Improvement <p>Awareness Campaign https://www.preventsuicidect.org/</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In July there were more than 2000 visits to the website 	
IV. Member Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September 27, 2023, half-day symposium being planned for LivingWorks ASIST and safeTALK instructors; details to be shared from LivingWorks to instructors 	
	Meeting adjourned 10:58am	
<p>2021-2022 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 9:00am—11:00am</p> <p>Meetings are currently scheduled virtually. Please refer to the monthly meeting announcement for meeting information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let the tri-chairs know if you have any ideas for meeting presenters - Andrea.Duarte@ct.gov Stephanie.Bozak@ct.gov Ann@brianshealinghearts.org <p>Dates/Presentations</p> <p><u>2023 Meeting Dates/Presentations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9/14: National Suicide Prevention Month Event being planned by RSABs - 10/12: Cheryl Weinstock, SAVE-Awarded Journalist, Responsible Reporting on Suicide - 11/9: CTSAB Lived Experience Committee, Recovery After Surviving An Attempt - 12/14: Marisa Sicely-Rogers, Melissa Morgera, Sara Jones, Erica Moura, Hartford Healthcare/Institute of Living, Suicide Postvention: Providing Care for the Caregivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subcommittee meetings are listed in the monthly meeting announcement sent on the CTSAB listserv. 	